RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the 30th July, 1991/8 Sravana, 1913 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock **Mr. Chairman** in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Establishment of AIIMS Type Medical Institution in West Bengal

*221. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for establishing an AIIMS type medical institution in West Bengal;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

श्री मोहम्मद अकबल उर्फ मोम अकबल: इसका अभी कोई जवाब नहीं मिला है।

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Chairman, we are considerably handicapped. Normally the answers are put up on the notice board sufficiently in advance. But today they are just being put up as I have entered here. That is why I have got delayed. I want to see the written answers on the board but they were not there. This is the way Parliament questions are being tackled. It is very difficult for us to function.

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR: So far as my Ministry is concerned, it is not the fault of the Ministry. We had sent the reply yesterday.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: I know the Ministry did not supply the answers till 9 a.m.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I have also been a member of the Treasury Benches and this has never happened before that answers to questions were received by the Members or that they were not put up on the board in time. We want to know who is responsible for this. Let the Government answer. Let somebody answer on behalf of the Government. The Ministers cannot sit quiet like this.

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR: I would not like to cast aspersions on anybody. But I don't think it is the responsibility of the Minister incharge.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: If it is not his responsibility, then whose responsibility is it?

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR: I do not want to cast aspersions.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: If you are not responsible, then let the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs answer this question.

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR: Even the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs cannot explain it.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: How can you say that? As the Minister in-charge, it is the responsibility of the Minister to make sure that answers to Parliament questions reach the Rajya Sabha Secretariat or the Lok Sabha Secretariat, as the case may be, in time, that they are supplied to the Members in time. This is the procedure.

श्री मोहम्मद अफज़ल उर्फ मीम अफज़ल: जब तक कोई जवाब न आये तब तक हाऊस का कार्यवाही स्थगित कर दीजिए।

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs can only find out why the delay, where the delay has occurred. It may be difficult for me to say just now how it happened. It has got delayed. It may be a fact that it has been delayed and I take your word for it.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will you please assure us that it will not be repeated?

MR. CHAIRMAN: They want an assurance that this would not be repeated.

SHRI M. M. JACOB: I will see that it is not repeated. That is all I can say.

MR. CHAIRMAN: आगे से नहीं होगा

Mr. Md. Salim, now you may put your question.

SHRI MD. SALIM: My question was this: "Whether the Government of West Bengal sent a request or a proposal for establishment of a post-graduate institute for medical sciences on the line of AIIMS in Calcutta or in the vicinity of Calcutta?" Now, you know that the State Government is very keen that a post-graduate medical institute on the lines of AIIMS in Delhi or the PGI in Chandigarh may be set up by the Government of India in Calcutta. The Government of West Bengal has proposed that all the infrastructural facilities will be provided and has written to the two predecessors of the Minister. They have also consulted the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Mr. Mohan Dharia. And the present Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission is Mr. Pranab Mukherjee. The then Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Mr. Mohan Dharia, had requested the then Prime Minister to ask the Minister of Health and Family Welfare to consider the proposal for including it in the Eighth Plan. My specific question is: Has the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare considered the proposal and the suggestion to include it in the Eighth Plan? Sir, you know that the first medical college in the continent of Asia was established in Calcutta almost 155 years ago and it occupied a prime position, a pride of place in the field of medical care and health care. But for the last few decades because of wrong planning and wrong priorities fixed by the Union Government the position of Calcutta has gone down. It is not a question of Calcutta alone. People from the entire sub-continent were attracted to Calcutta for specialised treatment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Put your question, please.

SHRI MD. SALIM: Now, I would like to request through you. The hon'ble Minister to answer my questions. My specific question no. 1 is this: Is the Ministry considering to include it in the Eighth Five Year Plan? The second part of my question is this: Has the Planning Commission written to the Ministry or not for its inclusion and about the proposal regarding the formation of a Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. P. N. Tandon to identify the States for establishing a centre of excellence for post-graduate medical studies and hospital? And if it is there, what is the report of that Committee?

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR: Sir, I am very grateful to the hon'ble Member that he has brought out almost all the facts pertaining to the subject. I

may mention that the Governor of West Bengal had drawn the attention of the Government of India that an AIIMS type of institute may be established in West Bengal in Calcutta. Thereafter he had written a letter to the then Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission also. Thereafter, the Minister in charge of Health and Family Planning of the Government of West Bengal also drew the attention of the Government of India. I am sorry to say that we are not able to and we cannot have an AIIMS type of institute in any other State under the present circumstances. The hon'ble Member is correct in saying that Mr. Mohan Dharia had written a letter to the then Prime Minister who was in charge of Health and Family Welfare and he had requested him that the request of the West Bengal Government should be considered. The hon'ble Member is correct in saying that the Government had appointed a Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. P. N. Tandon to examine as to whether we can have some institutes of excellence in four or five zones of the country. The report of Dr. Tandon is still awaited. I can tell the hon'ble Minister. (*Interruptions*)

AN HON'BLE MEMBER: The hon'ble Member.

SHRI M L. FOTEDAR:.....yes, hon'ble Member, that the AIIMS institute has been established in Delhi under an Act of Parliament and it was done by Government of India in the Union Territory. It is basically the responsibility of the State Governments to establish such institutes. I may mention that the Bihar Government has already established such an institute in the name of Indira Gandhi Medical Institute where post-graduate education is imparted. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has also established another institute in the name of Sanjay Gandhi. Another institute in the north-east has been established in Shillong though students are not going to Shillong. We are considering other aspects of that...

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: What name?

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR: That is in the name of Indiraji. So, there is no proposal at present to have an AIIMS type institute included in the Eighth Five Year Plan.

SHRI MD. SALIM: My second supplementary arises from the answer given by the honourable Minister. As I have already said, patients suffering from complicated diseases from all over eastern India and the north-eastern part of the county have to rush to Delhi, Madras, Vellore, Bombay for better facilities. You will agree with me that there is no dearth of talented specialists in Calcutta or in West Bengal in the field of medical science. Besides, Calcutta occupies a strategic position. I am pleading the case of Calcutta for eastern and north-eastern part of the country. In the present circumstances the Minister mentioned about Shillong—the kidnappings that take place, the curfew, the communal tension, rioting, etc. This is a common feature in different parts of the country, in different cities. Doraiswamy was kidnapped from Kashmir. Such incidents of violence, kidnapping or communal tension are there in Kashmir, in Hyderabad, in Bombay. I am not accusing anybody. There is the Marathi and non-Marathi problem in Bombay. Calcutta occupies a significant position. There are people in Calcutta hailing from different parts of the country. In Calcutta there are people from the honourable Minister's State also. There are more Oriyas in Calcutta than in any city of the State of Orissa. This significant feature has to be highlighted and appreciated by the Government of India in order to convince itself of the need for establishing in Calcutta a centre of excellence in the field of medical science so that the people from Sikkim, from the north-eastern States, from Bihar, from Orissa, can come for specialised education and treatment. I am putting this supplementary because the Minister has

said that there is no proposal to establish such an institute in Calcutta. As the hon'ble Minister mentioned there are so many institutions coming up in the name of different Gandhis. There may be some more Gandhis. You should set up one more institute in this important place. There are so many private institutions coming up though they are catering to those who can afford to pay, to the richer classes. But there are a lot of poor people and the Government should undertake to establish an institute for the poorer sections of the people so that the gift of modern medical science caters to the poor also...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your supplementary?

SHRI MD. SALIM: My supplementary is this. The Government is awaiting the report of the B. L. Tandon Committee. If it comes in positive, is the Minister prepared to establish such an institute?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will he respond positively?

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR: I don't minimise the importance of Calcutta. Calcutta has a pride of place not only in West Bengal but in the entire country. But that does not mean that we should not look towards the interests of the people living in the north-eastern States. If we concede in one State, then we will have to provide such institutes in other States also. West Bengal has the same claim as Orissa or any other State in the country has. So far as naming an institute is concerned. I would request the West Bengal Government, through the honourable Member, to have an institute upgraded and have it in the name of any important leader—maybe, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose or even Jyoti Basu. I will be glad.

SHRI MD. SALIM: That is the duty of the Union Government.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: My proposal is to name the institute after Bush, call it Bush Institute.

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR: I may inform the honourable Members that, as I have already said, the AIIMS is an institute of excellence in medical education. There are two types: One is the medical education and the other is the hospital or dispensary, that is, medical care to the people. I think the poor people in West Bengal in the rural areas require more medical care than an institute of this type at this stage.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Prakash Ambedkar.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Sir, I would like to know one thing from the honourable Minister. I would like to know from the Minister whether they will consider the question of putting conditions, while setting up chemical factories because the chemical factories release poisonous gases and we have seen during the last few months and many incidents have taken place. Therefore, I would like to know whether the Government, Central or State, will consider putting conditions while setting up chemical factories.

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR: Chemical industries do not come under my charge and, therefore, a separate notice for this question is required.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: At least will you put some conditions in this regard?

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR: Sir, the honourable Member has drawn my attention and I will draw the attention of the State Governments because 'Health' is a State subject and they have to provide the necessary facilities. In case he wants me to interver I would request the State Goverments to take sufficient care of this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Dr. Thulasi Reddy.

DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Sir, the Minister has given an evasive answer. If you take into account the size of our country, its large population, the regional variation in the occurrence of diseases, etc., you will see that there is every justification, there is every reason and there is need for establishing hospitals or institutes like the AIIMS not only in West Bengal, but also one in each region, that is, South, North, East and West. I am not specific about Andhra Pradesh.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why have you left out the centre, that is, Andhra Pradesh? You have mentioned about the South, North, East and West. What about the centre,, Andhra Pradesh? Probably because you have got a good number of them? ... (*Interruptions*) ...

DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Sir, a person coming from Kerala... (*Interruptions*) ...

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Sir, now that they have got a Prime Minister from Andhra Pradesh, they do not want anything more. They are quite satisfied... (*Interruptions*) ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Reddy. You continue; don't get diverted.

DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Sir, I submit that there should be one institute in each region. A person coming all the way from Kerala to Delhi has to face many problems here. He will find everything costly here, room to stay, food, etc... (*Interruptions*) ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your question is whether they will put up one institute in each region, North, South, East and West, like the four Ashrams of the Shankaracharya.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: The Shankaracharya put up a fifth one in Kanchipuram also... (*Interruptions*) ...

DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Sir, will the Minister reconsider his proposal?

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR: Sir, I have already stated that due to the financial constraints, we will not be able to have the AIIMS-type institute in every State because if we have in one State, then other States also will demand... (*Interruptions*) ...

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Sir, he is not talking iof States. He wants one in each region. He is not talking about States... (*Interruptions*) ...

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR: Kindly have patience; kindly listen to me. Let us have some economy of emotions. Don't get excited... (*Interruptions*) ...

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: In matter of health, we have to get emotional... (*Interruptions*) ...

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR: I am coming to that. Mr. Reddy is asking whether we are going to have AIIMS-type institutes in the Zones. I have already said that we have appointed a Committee under Dr. Tandon. In case I say anything now, that would be prejudging the recommendations of that Committee So, when the report comes, we will take a view at that time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Rajni Ranjan Sahu.

श्री रजनी रंजन साहू : सभापति महोदय मंत्री महोदय ने अभी बिहार में इंदिरा गांधी इंस्टीट्यूट आफ मेडिकल साईंसेज का जिक्र किया है, मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि कितने दिनों से यह इंस्टीट्यूट कायम है और आज इसकी क्या स्थिति है ? इलाज के लिए जो सुविधा वहां उपलब्ध है, क्या वह आल इंडिया इंस्टीट्यूट आफ मेडीकल साइंसज के एट पार हैं ? अगर नहीं है तो कितने दिनों में यह सुविधा वहां लोगों को प्राप्त हो जाएगी ? प्रश्न ख' इसमें जो प्रोग्रेस के लिए वांछित सहायता चाहिए,

वह क्या बिहार सरकार द्वारा उपलब्ध की जा रही है ?

श्री एम. एल. फोतेदार: सभापति जी, मैंने पहले ही कहा है कि यह इंस्टीट्यूट बिहार सरकार के अधीन है; और इन्होंने जो बताई हैं, शायद बिहार सरकार अब इस तरफ भी ध्यान दे। मैं मुख्य मंत्री से गुजारिश करूंगा. और जो बातें आनरेबल मेम्बर ने कहीं हैं, उनके नोटिस मैं लाऊंगा कि वहां के लोगों की सेहत के बारे में भी ध्यान रखें।

Subsidy on Food and Fertilizer

*222. KUMARI CHANDRIKA PREMJI KENIA:†

SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to withdraw subsidy on food and fertilizers; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and in what manner Government propose to compensate the farmers to offset the high cost of production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

In so far as food subsidy is concerned, the subsidy on sugar has been withdrawn with effect from the evening of 24h July, 1991.

In the case of fertilizer subsidy, low analysis fertilizers such as calcium ammonium nitrate, ammonium chloride, ammonium sulphate and sulphate of potash have been freed from price and movement control with effect from 25th July, 1991. The prices of all other fertilizers have been increased on an average by 40 per cent with effect from 25th July, 1991. In addition, in respect of single super phosphate, there will be a ceiling on the subsidy per tonne payable to producers so as to move towards total deregulation in the next few years.

Farmers will be compensated for the proposed increase in the price of fertilizers through suitable increases in procurement prices. In addition, it will be ensured that 50 per cent of Plan resources are invested in the agricultural and rural sectors. The provision for the continuing schemes for assistance to small and marginal farmers for dug-wells and shallow tube-wells would be doubled. The ceilings on assistance in difficult areas where the water level is very low, would be removed. The provision for assistance for fresh water and brackish water acqua-culture and for oilseeds and pulses production would be substantially stepped up. New schemes are being drawn up to popularise small tractors and matching implements, drip and sprinkler irrigation in areas where water is scarce, and quality seeds in low yield areas. A new scheme would be implemented from this Kharif season for providing assistance to State Governments, cooperative societies and farmers groups to provide blanket plant protection cover on payment of a small fee in large identified areas under cotton or pulses. The credit structure would be strengthened to ensure adequate availability of credit particularly to the small and marginal farmers. Soil testing laboratories and farm advisory services all over the country would be strengthened to ensure efficient use of fertilizers and popularise the use of bio-fertilizers.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Kumari Chandrika Premji Kenia.